

INTHEKNOW

Friday, 10 May 2024

www.fairfax.bham.sch.uk



Kindness Counts Focus Week

Next week students will be focusing on 'Kindness Counts Week' in tutor time, and talking about the need to be careful about words we use, and the importance of being kind.

#BeKind

#BeRespectful

Mental Health Awareness Week – 13-19 May 2024

An advance notice: the focus for this year's Mental Health Awareness Week is "**Movement: moving more for our mental health**", and Fairfax have planned a range of activities.

We are looking forward to celebrating Mental Health Awareness Week across the academy through activities including:

- a sleep workshop with sleep sounds, a true or false quiz, eye masks and sleep mists!
- a beginners Yoga session!
- a boxing/sparring session aiming to release those endorphins!
- a Tutor Time 'Hot Topic' session all about Mental Health Awareness Week
- top tips displayed on TV screens around school.

Please see the attached guide for further advice and guidance: 'How to talk about and support young people with their well-being'.

'National Thank A Teacher Day' – Wednesday, 19 June 2024

Parents/carers/students who would like to thank a member of staff for National Thank a Teacher Day are able to do so at [National Thank A Teacher Day - Thank a Teacher](#).

What is mental health?

Your mental health affects how you...

FEEL THINK ACT

Your state of wellbeing affects how you...

- cope with stress
- relate to others
- make choices
- engage with your family, community, workplace and friends

Support your mental health

Boost your wellbeing

Little things can make a big difference to your wellbeing:

- spend time with people who make you feel good
- express your feelings through journaling

Have a good night's sleep

Lack of sleep can increase risk of depression and anxiety

- aim for 7-9 hours of sleep per night
- avoid looking at screens one hour before bed

Keep Active

Exercise can help relieve stress, improve memory and boost your mood

- use break time to get some fresh air and walk around
- Join in extra sporting activities

YOUNGMINDS
www.youngminds.org.uk

HEALTH4TEENS
www.health4teens.co.uk
07520 615730
Free confidential advice for teenagers via text messages.

www.kooth.com
Free online counselling and support for under 25's
4:30pm - 10:30pm

SANE
0300 304 700
4:30pm - 10:30pm

Fairfax PTFA

An advance notice: the next PTFA meeting is on the new date of Monday, 24 June 2024 at 18:00. Please email ff-ptfa@fairfax.fmat.co.uk for more information and/or to confirm your attendance.

Attendance Matters

We extend our heartfelt thanks to both parents/carers and students for their exceptional attendance this term. Your dedication and ambition to being present and committed towards learning is truly commendable. As a result, we are proud to report that our attendance is nearly 1.5% above national average which is something that everyone who is involved with Fairfax should be immensely proud of.

Research consistently demonstrates a strong correlation between attendance and academic performance, including GCSE and A Level results. Numerous studies have highlighted the positive impact of regular attendance on student achievement. Here are some key findings:

- Improved Academic Performance:** Higher attendance rates are associated with better grades. Students who attend classes regularly have more opportunities to engage with the curriculum, participate in discussions, and receive feedback from teachers, all of which contribute to improved learning outcomes.
- Exam Success:** Research suggests that students with higher attendance rates are more likely to perform well in standardized tests, including GCSEs and A Levels. Regular attendance ensures that students have covered the necessary material and are adequately prepared for exams.
- Retention of Material:** Consistent attendance facilitates the retention of information and skills taught in class. Students who attend regularly are better able to build upon previous lessons, leading to a deeper understanding of the subject matter and increased confidence in their abilities.
- Positive Learning Environment:** Schools with high attendance rates often foster a positive learning environment where students feel motivated and supported. This environment encourages active participation and collaboration among peers, further enhancing academic performance.

Overall, the research underscores the importance of attendance in achieving academic success. By prioritizing attendance and minimizing absences, students can maximize their learning potential and achieve their academic goals.

We understand that there will be occasions where students may not be well enough to come to school. On these occasions, please contact the Academy before 08:00 each day of absence.


Attendance Office

Please be reminded that you can contact the attendance office and Attendance Manager – Miss J O'Connor via email: ff-attendance@fairfax.fmat.co.uk.

For Year 12 and 13 attendance, please contact Mrs Brewer on ext. 3309. For pre-arranged medical appointments, please contact attendance 48 hours prior to the appointment.

Attendance CSAWS

Please be reminded that CSAWS (Central School Attendance and Welfare Service) may conduct a home visit if your child is absent, and their attendance is a concern.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

At Fairfax Academy we believe that excellent attendance and punctuality are the key to success. A missed school day is a lost opportunity to learn. Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve higher grades than students who do not have regular attendance.

ABSENCE

Children are required by law to attend school 190 days per year and the Government advise that students' attendance should be at least 95%. However, **95% attendance equates to 10 missed days of school**; a massive **50 lessons!** Research has shown that students missing 20 days of school performed a whole grade lower in their exams than similar ability students with good attendance.

PUNCTUALITY

Poor punctuality can have a significant impact on learning time. Across a school year, being **5 minutes late per day results in a loss of 3 days learning per year**. Being **15 minutes late every day will result in 10 lost days**.

Our school day starts at 8.35am and students should be through the school gate at this time. Students that are late into school will be issued with sanctions in line with our academy Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

APPOINTMENTS

Wherever possible appointments should be made out of school time. We understand that at times appointments in the school day are unavoidable. Please provide evidence of the appointment in advance, so that we can amend our school records, and advise the school who will be collecting your child during the school day.

ATTENDANCE

At Fairfax Academy we are committed to challenging poor attendance. In cases where a student begins to develop a pattern of absence, the academy will advise the parents/carers that we require an improvement in attendance.

When attendance fails to improve, the school reluctantly takes the line that legal action has to be considered, and the Court Section in Birmingham becomes involved. In previous academic years, cases have been heard, and either a fixed penalty has been issued, or a court appearance has been determined as an appropriate course of action.

HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Please keep in mind the cost to your child's education should they miss school. Please do not book holidays in term time. Holidays in term time will not be authorised.

95% ATTENDANCE = 10 missed days = 50 lessons!	5 MINUTES LATE PER DAY = 3 lost days learning per year	AVOID BOOKING holidays in term time
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Term Time Holiday Requests

A reminder notice: parents/carers are kindly reminded that Fairfax Academy cannot authorise holiday leave during term time. Please be advised doing so may result in penalty charges.

Punctuality

A reminder notice: all students are expected to be on school site from 08:25 and be in their tutor room for registration by 08:30 each day. Any student arriving after this time will be considered late to school. Students who arrive after 09:15 without a valid reason, e.g. medical appointment, will be recorded as an unauthorised absence for the AM session only. To notify us that your child will be late to school, please telephone 0121 378 1288, press option 1 and leave a voicemail stating a valid reason for the lateness. We ask for your support in reminding your child of the importance of punctuality and the need to ensure enough time is given in order to travel to school each morning. Please be reminded that the third instance of lateness, and any lateness after this during a half term, will result in a 60 minute after-school detention.

Mathematics Updates

- Year 7-8 students will soon be celebrating National Numeracy Day with an opportunity to enter national competitions and participate in 'MathsNatter' discussions in tutor time.
- Congratulations to Year 7-8 students who achieved some fabulous results in the UK Maths Challenge. Only 50% of all participants nationally achieved Bronze, Silver or Gold. At Fairfax 70 students were awarded a level, including 4 Gold Awards! This is a great achievement! Well done! #makingfairfaxproud
- As the end of year assessments approach, Year 7-10 students will have revision material and topics lists on Satchel One before half term. A reminder that there are a variety of mathematics resources available to purchase on ParentPay to support students learning.
- Sparx: please encourage your child to complete their weekly Sparx tasks. Spot prizes, jump the queue passes, praise postcards etc. are being awarded weekly. This year students have answered over half a million questions correctly and completed over 11,000 hours of online learning – a great achievement! Over 600 students have levelled up since September, including awarding our first level 5 to one of our Year 7 students – Well done Crystal!

Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform in order to support us to maintain high standards.

In particular:

- Tailored trousers and/or skirt (not tight fitting)
- Plain black V-neck jumper or cardigan (no sweatshirts or hoodies)
- Blazer and tie (to be worn at all times)
- School shoes (not trainers)
- No jewellery (one pair of stud earrings only)
- No facial piercings (if students have a nose ring, it needs to be a clear, invisible one)

Equalities Group Meeting

A reminder notice: all students are invited to attend the Equalities Group Meetings each Thursday lunchtime in C7. If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to attend or speak to Miss Gardner or Mrs Williams.

PRIDE Meeting

A reminder notice: all students are invited to attend our next PRIDE Meeting at 15:00 in C13 on Wednesday, 15 May 2024. If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to attend or speak to Mrs Lam or Mrs Williams.

School Council Meeting

A reminder notice: all students are invited to attend our next School Council Meeting on Tuesday, 18 June 2024 at lunchtime in B9. If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to attend or speak to Ms Hau or Mrs Williams.

Careers Update

It has been a busy couple of weeks for Careers at Fairfax with Year 7, 8 and 12 all participating in a session with Birmingham City University as part of our Accelerate Partnership.

- Year 7 completed a workshop to find out about Higher Education and what it means to go to university.
- Year 8 participated in a Dragon's Den style workshop putting forward Business ideas. Out of the four sessions the finalists were called back to the Diamond Suite to present to the judges. The winning team came up with the idea of a Self-Help app.
- Year 12 were given the chance to visit the BCU campus in Birmingham, with taster sessions being delivered to help students in their future career choices. The day was a big hit, especially the free lunch and onsite Costa and Starbucks! Fairfax sixth formers can take full advantage of our 'ACCELERATE' partnership with BCU, as the university offers a 2-grade reduction on the majority of its courses. Look out for the email offered to some of our students to attend the Year 12 free summer school being hosted in July.

BCU Accelerate

On Wednesday, 8 May students from Year 7 and 8 travelled to Birmingham City University's City Centre Campus to perform poems they had written. Students have been working with Memorhyme and BCU student ambassadors to write poems on a topic of their choosing since January, with students writing on everything from fried chicken to cultural identity. Well done to all the finalists who attended! The poems and performances were all of high quality. Congratulations to the winners Nissi for "Black Girl Magic", James for "Tennis" and Delphi for "Sunnyside beach". #makingfairfaxproud

YEAR 7

There are no Year 7 notices.

YEAR 8

An advance notice: the Year 8 'Taster' Bronze DofE Practice Walk will take place on Wednesday, 26 June for F half students, and Thursday, 27 June for X half students. Letters will be sent w/b 3 June 2024, please contact Mr Hobbs (PE Office) with any queries.

YEAR 9

A reminder notice: a reward trip will take place on Friday, 24 May 2024 to Alton Towers, and invited students, who received zero consequences during Year 8, have received a letter and information from Mr Porter.

An advance notice: the Year 9 'Taster' Bronze DofE Practice Walk will take place on Monday, 24 June for F half students, and Tuesday, 25 June for X half students. Letters will be sent w/b 3 June 2024, please contact Mr Hobbs (PE Office) with any queries.

YEAR 10

A reminder notice: the Y10 Bronze DofE Expedition to Church Stretton is calendared on Friday, 7 June until Saturday, 8 June 2024. Students will depart after the GCSE RE examination. Please refer to the invitation letter for further details.

A reminder notice: the Y10 Geography Field Visits to Carding Mill are calendared on Monday, 10 June and Tuesday, 11 June 2024. Please refer to the invitation letter for further details.

A reminder notice: a reward trip will take place on Friday, 14 June 2024 to Drayton Manor, and invited students, who received zero consequences during Year 9, have received a letter and information from Mrs Colbourne.

YEAR 11

A reminder notice: Examination Leave – the main examination period begins on Thursday, 9 May 2024. Year 11 students are expected to continue attending all of their lessons and tutor time until May half term. This is to support students with their preparations for each exam and to help relieve some of the pressure of having to do too much revision without support. Please refer to the letter and revision session information from Ms Dowell for further information.

A reminder notice: Year 11 students received personalised timetables for all of their examinations on Monday, 22 April; a full examinations timetable is also available on the Academy website. Morning examinations begin at 9:00am. Afternoon examinations begin at 1:30pm. As there are some variations to these start times for specific exams/students, students should refer carefully to their individual timetables for exact start times for each exam. Students will be expected to be outside their examination venue at least 10 minutes before the start of an examination. Students will be allowed to leave Period 4 early if they have an afternoon examination, to ensure that they have enough time for their lunch.

An advance notice: the Year 11 Leavers' Event will take place on Wednesday, 26 June 2024. Further details will be shared nearer the date.

A reminder notice: Year 11 Prom will take place on Thursday, 27 June 2024 at Aston Wood Golf Club. Please be reminded that students will need to be aware of the examination contingency date of Wednesday, 26 June 2024, and all students should be available up to, and including that day, in case there is disruption to the national examinations.

An advance notice: Results can be collected from the school gym from 8:30am on Thursday, 22 August 2024. Staff will be available on that date should students require any further help and support.

YEAR 12

A reminder notice: Year 12 students who have been entered for BTEC exams in the Summer 2024 exam series received a timetable with the date, times and location of their exams on Monday, 22 April. Please check these details carefully. Students will be expected to be outside their examination venue at least 10 minutes before the start of an examination. Students will be allowed to leave Period 4 early if they have an afternoon examination, to ensure that they have enough time for their lunch.

A reminder notice: the Y12 Geography Field Visit to North Wales is calendared on Tuesday, 4 June until Thursday, 6 June 2024. Please refer to the invitation letter for further details.

YEAR 13

A reminder notice: Examination Leave – students will be on study leave from Friday, 10 May but staff will be available during timetabled lessons for students to attend revision sessions. All students must sign in when they return to the school site for revision sessions and sign out when they leave. Students will be welcome to use the study rooms; however, these are silent work areas and therefore must be used for study only.

A reminder notice: Year 13 students have received personalised timetables for all of their examinations. These documents should be referred to for exact start times and locations, particularly if students have exam clash arrangements. Timetable overviews for the Summer 2024 examinations are available on the Academy website. It is the responsibility of students to ensure they attend all examinations on the correct day, at the correct time and in the correct location. Morning exams begin at 09:00. Afternoon exams begin at 13:30. As there are some variations to these start times for specific exams/students, students should refer carefully to their individual timetables for exact start times for each exam. Students are expected to arrive 10 minutes before the exam begins and correct school uniform should be worn on all occasions.

A reminder notice: it is vital that students return all books, and other materials belonging to the school and obtain an official leaving form from the Sixth Form Office. This must be done by Monday, 24 June 2024.

A reminder notice: Year 13 Prom will take place on Thursday, 27 June 2024 at The Townhouse, Sutton Coldfield. This is a ticket only event. Please be reminded that students will need to be aware of the examination contingency date of Wednesday, 26 June 2024, and all students should be available up to, and including that day, in case there is disruption to the national examinations.

An advance notice: Results can be collected from the school gym from 8:30am on Thursday, 15 August 2024. Staff will be available on that date should students require any further help and support.